

November 2022

Hello to all our loyal members, we do hope you are safe and well - this is our Autumn Newsletter to update you on a few items of interest connected to The Friends Group and the Priory. It also includes enclosures as mentioned.



Friends News

Firstly, thank you to all for your loyalty throughout the past difficult months. The Committee has been meeting as usual to discuss the way forward for 2023 and many of you would have enjoyed our Platinum Jubilee tea in June – see our web-site for photos of this very enjoyable occasion. It was really nice to have the opportunity to socialise with you again after having to cancel the previous year's summer social.

As this communication is approaching the end of the year we have enclosed a Membership Renewal Form for 2023 * thus saving on paperwork, an email reminder will be sent in December. * This is not due until 1st January – so no rush.

(Please send separate cheques if you are also booking for social, see next paragraph, at the same time) as this will assist Treasurer when preparing her records for Audit.

This year due to the ongoing works in the Priory we have, unfortunately, been unable to book a suitable room for our usual Christmas Social but decided a New Year get together would be just as nice and something to look forward to in what is often a grey, miserable January. We look forward to seeing many of our 'Old Friends' there. The form for tickets is enclosed.

The Committee decided to offer to plant a tree in the Priory grounds for the Queens' Canopy project and the Town Clerk has agreed to this. We have purchased a suitable tree, an Amelanchier, from Tim Wells Nurseries in Ware and anticipate this will be planted on Thursday November 24th at 2.0pm, come along to join us if you wish.

Whilst on the subject of Friends funding projects, we agreed once again this year to fund the planting up of the hanging baskets on the lamp posts in the Priory car park. This is part of our ongoing commitment to Ware In Bloom which we have done since 2014.

The Priory History board sited on the front drive has deteriorated since we funded this in 2009 and after consideration we have decided to set aside funds to renew this. A new board will be ordered and installed early Spring 2023.

There is a need for some repairs to the walking areas and other improvements within the Friends Garden area. We have obtained a good quotation from a local company which we passed to the Town Council and are pleased to report they have made the decision for this work to be done.

Over the past two years we have had some wonderful help from a group known as The Wednesday Volunteers who look after the 'berm' area which was created in 2011 when Friends funded the clearing of the watercourse. They came along in April and waded in the water to attend to and plant up new plants which we funded. They have promised to return in April 2023!

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday March 24th at 7.0pm, the Agenda and Minutes will be sent out beginning of March via email (*or delivery for those not on line*). We hope to see you there.

There were a few issues with our web site, friendsofwarepriory.co.uk but our technical advisor Ron has been on the case and the problems now resolved. However, do please visit the site for latest news and information from ourselves and W.T.C.

We were pleased to welcome three new members following the summer social, if you know of someone who would like to join us, please do let us know or give them a copy the membership form enclosed.

Priory News -

The extensive refurbishment and upgrade throughout the Priory building is still ongoing into 2023 when the Conservatory area and kitchen will be done together with an upgrade of the air conditioning in there also. The outside of the building has also undergone repairs and re-painting.

The skate park is now open after extensive refurbishment.

Work in The Priory Park will commence early in January 2023

The Priory Lido was closed this year due to the need for extensive works. The works are now well in hand, nearby residents received an advisory letter as the project largely involves demolition work until the Christmas break, with the rebuild commencing in the New Year. The project is due to finish early May, so we hope to be able to run a full season in 2023.

Bridget's Café and Tea Room. Bridget's is part of the ASL (Aspire, Support and Learn) charity group. This has been a great success especially during the summer as social distancing could be maintained on the back lawn which meant there was a nice venue for meeting up for tea or coffee. They are currently open Monday – Saturday, 9.30am – 3.30pm, well worth a visit.

Your committee sends best wishes to you all – keep well, stay safe, have a wonderful Christmas and hope to see you on January 13th for a good evening get-together.

*Janet, Jay, Margaret, Sylvia, Dennis, Kate, Ron, John, Rosemary,
and our Council representative, Vicki*